



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/227,406	01/08/1999	GEOFFREY MARC MILLER	102591/1	8345

23838 7590 10/31/2002

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K STREET, N.W., SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3624

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/227466

Applicant(s)

Miller

Examiner

Allen, G

Group Art Unit

3624

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/30/02
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 43-59 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 43-59 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 3624

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's Amendment G(Paper #20) filed 8/30/02.
2. Previously pending claims 30-42 were cancelled. New claims 43-59 were added.
3. New claims 43-59 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 43-59 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Jachmann(US Pat. No: 5,146,439) in view of Kikinis(US Pat. No: 5,875,436).
- 6.(NEW) As per claims 43 and 51, Jachmann teaches a computer-implemented method for automating administrative procedures in an office incorporating an integrated records management system(Abstract)(Fig 1)(Fig 2A)(Fig 2B)(col 2 lines 28-51). Jachmann teaches identifying receipt of an electronic document in a first computer directory (Fig 2A/110)(col 4 lines 24-37 which represents an office department and retrieving a status of the electronic document from a database table entry associated with the electronic document and transferring the document to a second(col 6 lines 45-50) computer directory(col 5 lines 15-23). Jachmann teaches representing a different office department based on the retrieved status(Fig 1/10/20/42) Jachmann

Art Unit: 3624

does not specifically teach a virtual office. Kikinis teaches this (col 2 line 60-col 3 line 6)(Abstract). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Jackmann in view of Kikinis to teach the above. The motivation is to teach an electronic office service providing full transcription capability without physical encumbrances as enunciated by Kikinis(col 1 lines 56-60). Do not

7.(NEW) As per claims 44 and 52, Jachmann teaches the method/system of claims 43 and 51 respectively. Jachmann does not specifically teach where the virtual office includes a room or a printer. Kikinis teaches where the virtual office department includes at least one of a mail room, a file room, a printer, or a person's office(col 3 lines 7-15)(col 3 line 66-col 4 line 13). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Jackmann in view of Kikinis to teach the above. The motivation is to teach an electronic office service providing full transcription capability without physical encumbrances and which can be directed to a person's office or a file room or mail room as enunciated by Kikinis(col 1 lines 56-60).

8.(NEW) As per claims 45 and 53, Jachmann teaches the method/system of claims 43 and 51 respectively. Jachman teaches wherein the electronic document includes a transcription(col 2 lines 28-38). Jachmann does not specifically teach wherein the first computer directory represents a mail room, the status awaiting receipt of the transcription for review, and the second computer directory represents a person's office. Kikinis teaches this(col 4 lines 2-13). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Jackmann in view of Kikinis to teach the above and to designate a person's office room in place of a hotel room. The

Art Unit: 3624

motivation is to teach an electronic office service providing full transcription capability without physical encumbrances and which can be directed to an arbitrary room as a person's office or a file room or mail room as enunciated by Kikinis(col 1 lines 56-60).

9(NEW) As per claims 46 and 54, Jachmann teaches the method/system of claims 43 and 51 respectively wherein the electronic document includes an administrative report, the first computer directory represents a file room, the status indicates awaiting receipt of the report for printing and the second computer directory represents a printer(Fig 1/44)(Fig 2B)(Fig 3A)(Fig 4).

10.(NEW)As per claims 47 and 55, Jachmann teaches according to the method/system of claims 43 and 51 and teaches general updating to reflect status of dictation jobs(col 5 lines 24-26).

Jachmann does not specifically teach wherein the receipt of the electronic document is identified by monitoring the first computer directory at predetermined intervals for a presence of the electronic document.Kikinis teaches this(col 3 lines 23-29).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Jackmann in view of Kikinis to teach the above. The motivation is to teach an electronic office service providing full transcription capability without physical encumbrances and which can be produced in a defined period of time as enunciated by Kikinis(col 1 lines 56-60).

11.(NEW) As per claims 48 and 56, Jachmann teaches the method/system according to claims 43 and 51 respectively wherein the database table entry is associated with the electronic document via a file-naming convention(col 5 lines 15-23)(col 4 lines 38-68).

Art Unit: 3624

12.(NEW)As per claims 49 and 57, Jachmann teaches the method/system according to claims 43 and 51 respectively wherein the electronic document is transferred by a copy command(col 5 line 59-col 6 line 4)(col 6 lines 51-65).

13. (NEW) As per claims 50 and 58, Jachmann teaches the method/system according to claims 43 and 51 respectively where the electronic document is transferred by a move command(col 5 lines 15-19)(col 6 lines 45-47)(Fig 2B/310).

14. (NEW) As per claim 59 Jachmann teaches a computer-implemented method comprising electronically sensing(Fig 2A/110)(col 4 lines 24-37) an arrival of an electronic document in a first computer directory representing an office department and querying a database for a status of the electronic document and updating the status of the electronic document in the database and copying the electronic document to a second computer directory(col 6 lines 45-50)(col 5 lines 15-23).Jachman teaches representing a different office department based on the retrieved status(Fig 1/10/20/42). Jachmann does not specifically teach a virtual office. Kikinis teaches this(col 2 line 60-col 3 line 6)(Abstract). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Jackmann in view of Kikinis to teach the above. The motivation is to teach an electronic office service providing full transcription capability without physical encumbrances as enunciated by Kikinis(col 1 lines 56-60).

Virtual office
lead

Response to Remarks

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 43-59 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Clarification was requested; entirely new claims were not.

Art Unit: 3624

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

17. Questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the examiner, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E. who can be telephoned at (703)-306-5844 between the hours of 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be contacted at (703)-308-1065.

GRA


September 18, 2002